

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

THE FRIDAY LETTER

Vol. 13 No.1

Published by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service

January 11, 1991

FNS to Hold Work Force Diversity Teleconference Agencywide

On January 15, at 11:00 EST, all FNS employees will participate in the Work Force Diversity Teleconference. Not only is this the first time FNS will hold a teleconference, but it's the first time the entire agency can participate in an event together!

The teleconference will be a live telecast and telephone hook-up involving ALL employees. Various "downlink" sites have been set up around the country so that all regional employees can participate. Headquarters employees will travel by bus to the Jefferson Auditorium in the South Agriculture Building.

The goals and objectives identified by the FNS Work Force Diversity Task Team are so important to **Betty Jo**, that she has chosen this forum as a means of "kicking-off" the various activities in this area. Secretary **Yeutter** will also participate via videotape and address the importance he places on the work force diversity initiative.

The objectives of the teleconference are to present the FNS initiatives for cultural diversity and career development, and to provide for Agencywide, yes, AGENCYWIDE, discussion on the Work Force Diversity and Career Development Task Group recommendations.

Many people have worked hard both from Headquarters and the Regions to pull this exciting event together.



Photo of painting done by Christopher Lipsey, HQs-FMD

Speaking personally...

Our first all-employee meeting to discuss the meaning of work force diversity in the Food and Nutrition Service promises to be an exciting event.

In my opinion, opportunity is the principal characteristic of the recommendations of the FNS Task Force on work force diversity. "Whose opportunity?", you ask. "Is it for some unknown persons outside our agency who haven't come to work yet?"

The answer is no. Most of the opportunity is for us, the current employees. We're eager to tell you about these opportunities, listen to your comments, and answer your questions. See you Tuesday!

Betty Jo

FNS to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday



Dr. Edgar Allan Toppin

"Living the Dream: Let Freedom Ring for Peace and Nonviolence"

by Floyd Miles, OAE

FNS will celebrate the birthday of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** on January 16, 1991, at 10:00 a.m., in the 4th floor conference room. The speaker will be **Dr. Edgar Allan Toppin**, Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.

Dr. Toppin is a noted author, honored by the State of Virginia twice: Governor **Holton** named him a Distinguished Virginia in 1971 and he was chosen a Peer Eminent Cultural Laureate in Virginia in 1977. Governors **Robb** and **Bailes** appointed him to various boards and committees including the Governor's Fellows Program Committee and Governor's Task Force on Science and Technology.

Please come and join this special celebration!

Pictured here with Betty Jo are the first "brave" employees to accept her "invitation for lunch." From left to right around the table are Lisa Greenwood, OAE, Suzie Coddington, CND, Betty Jo, Jonathan Lash, OAE, Jenny Genser, OAE. Not shown in the picture is Jim Coady, FDD. Betty Jo is using this informal setting to talk about your observations and suggestions about FNS. She is really looking forward to getting to know as many employees as possible! Call her office if you'd like to join Betty Jo for lunch. Photo by Charlie Okal.

ST BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP !!!



Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990

A new salary law has been enacted. The Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act restructures federal employee pay by linking it to local labor markets. Beginning in January, 1994, the annual pay adjustment for General Schedule workers will involve two basic components.

1. **A nationwide uniform pay adjustment** based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI). The ECI measures the rate of increase in employment costs. Under the new pay system, General Schedule pay rates will be adjusted by the ECI minus .5.

2. **Locality Comparability Payment.** This portion of the pay adjustment payment will be mandated in geographic areas where local non-Federal pay is more than 5 percent higher than General Schedule pay for comparable positions. Locality payments will vary by geographic area based on Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys of non-Federal employers.

There will be a phased-in reduction in local pay disparities over a nine-year period. At least two-tenths of the pay disparity will be

closed Fiscal Year 1994 and an additional tenth each succeeding year.

After Fiscal Year 1994, the President has full discretion to reduce the ECI and/or the locality comparability payment based on national emergency or serious economic conditions.

Prior to the introduction of locality payments (Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993) General Schedule pay will be adjusted by the full ECI. The President has limited discretion to curtail the adjustment.

In Fiscal Year 1994, the President has limited discretion to curtail locality payments.

The new salary law provides a variety of interim and ongoing flexibilities to deal with particular recruitment and retention problems. For example, until comparability payments begin in 1994, the President may authorize geographic pay adjustments of up to 8 percent in selected areas in which there are widespread recruitment or retention problems. Also for certain entry-level positions, the President may authorize up to 5 percent pay differential. Certain new pay authorities become effective not

later than 180 days from enactment of the law. These include: recruitment and relocation bonuses of up to 25 percent of base pay; hiring above step 1 for all grades; authorization of up to 800 critical positions with base pay up to Executive Level I; advance pay up to 2 weeks for new appointees; special rates increased to approximately 60 percent above maximum pay rate for the grade; and payment of travel and transportation expenses for new job candidates and new hires.

Also, the law provides that the linkage between pay and performance be strengthened. OPM will design such systems in conjunction with a Pay-for-Performance Labor Management Committee. The Committee will

recommend to OPM after 1 year on the types of pay raises to be covered and the criteria to be used.

The first set of regulations implementing pay reform are anticipated early in February. Employees will be educated through letters, brochures and other materials.

FNS to Participate in Personnel Study

Dr. Carolyn Ban is an Associate Professor of Public Administration at the State University of New York at Albany. Currently a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution, she has written a number of books and articles about the Federal personnel system. She is currently conducting research at several Federal agencies on the manager's role in the personnel process. The Food and Nutrition Service is pleased to participate in this research, which will take place at Headquarters and in the Northeast Region.

Dr. Ban will be conducting initial group interviews of first-line supervisors, mid-level managers, and senior executives in Headquarters during January and February. During March through June, she will be interviewing individual supervisors, managers, and executives, as well as personnel specialists. She expects to visit the Northeast Regional office next summer.

Dr. Ban will be contacting individuals over the next several weeks. We encourage you to participate. If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact **Dr. Ban** directly at the Brookings Institution, 202-797-6000, ext. 4009, or **Roger Peterson** at 703-756-3332.

Personnel Updates

Nancy Gaston, NTSD, has taken a position with the National Institute of Health.

Phil Cohen has left SFPD and is now the Branch Chief for the Program Administration Branch in the Food Distribution Division.

Allen Ng has been appointed Deputy Regional Administrator for the Western Region.

Emory Rice of the Program Development Branch in the Food Stamp Program has retired as of January 3. A luncheon will be held for him on January 17.

AROUND THE COUNTRY...

--**Allen Ng** has been appointed Deputy Regional Administrator for WRO. **Allen** was formerly the Food Stamp Program Director. **Karen Howard**, Director of Field Operations, has been named Acting Food Stamp Program Director.

Other staff changes at WRO: **Richard Mellinger**, formerly the Director of Financial Management, has accepted a position at the National Office. **Dennis Stewart** has been appointed Acting Director of Financial Management. **J. F. (Bob) Kragh** is now the Acting Food Distribution Program Director; **Marcia Gibney** is the Acting Director of the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and **Roger Brockmeyer** is the Acting Director of Field Operations.

One final change...Regional Administrator **Sharon MacKay** was recently married, and her new name is **Sharon Levinson**. Congratulations Sharon!

ND Uses Enhanced Error-Rate Funding to Improve Program

North Dakota's Department of Human Services plans to use its FY '89 enhanced funding award of \$95,466 to accomplish a variety of improvements in the State's Food Stamp Program. North Dakota, with an error rate of 5.78 percent, was one of three Mountain Plains states to receive enhanced funding.

State officials plan to undertake food stamp training in Mandan for approximately 55 new workers who have been associated with the Food Stamp Program for 2 years or less. Another portion of the award will provide North Dakota's matching share for establishing a fraud control unit, beginning with a pilot project in three North Dakota counties. A total of \$43,529 will be distributed to individual counties based on performance levels determined by state quality control and management evaluation error rates. The balance of the grant will be used to defray part of the salary of a roving eligibility worker and to improve North Dakota's integrated computer system.

MWRO Holds Making Food Dollars Count Workshop

Story and Photo by Mary Jane Getlinger, MWRO

MWRO, the Illinois Cooperative Extension Service and the Illinois Department of Public Aid jointly sponsored a "Making Food Dollars Count" workshop in Quincy (IL) on December 5. Approximately 70 community workers, nutrition educators, health care officials, social workers and others interested in working with low income persons to increase the purchasing power of their food dollars. **Sue Ann Ritchko**, administrator of the Human Nutrition Information Service delivered the key note address, "Buy Better -- Eat Better," a summary of the Making Food Dollars Count educational program, development of the thrifty food plan and the new "Dietary Guidelines." The workshop included a local food assistance simulation activity to encourage networking among local workers, as well as a panel discussion of state-wide outreach efforts of the Supplemental Food Programs, Food Distribution Programs, Food Stamp Program and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

MWRO Public Affairs arranged media coverage on December 4 including a telephone radio interview for **Ritchko** with WBBA (ABC) Radio, Pittsfield (IL); a live call-in talk show appearance for **Ritchko** and the Adams County Cooperative Extension Advisor **Kathy Wolters** with WTAD (CBS) Radio, Quincy (IL); a live human resource radio show interview for **Ritchko** with WGEM (NBC) Radio, Quincy (IL); and an on-camera interview for Administrator **Ritchko** and MWRO nutritionist **Robert Dean** on the market basket comparison shopping with Ch 7 KHQA (CBS) TV, Quincy (IL). Media coverage on the day of the workshop was by the Quincy Herald Whig food editor who attended the entire workshop, Ch 10 WGEM (NBC) TV, Quincy (IL), who interviewed HNIS Administrator **Ritchko**, FNS Regional Administrator **Woods** and Peoria County Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Assistant **Berth Henderson**; and a telephone radio interview for **Ritchko** with WCAZ (ABC) Radio, Carthage (IL). Radio and TV reports centering on national nutrition policy, the "Dietary Guidelines," and aspects of "Making Food Dollars Count" were aired on local radio December 4, 5 and 6.

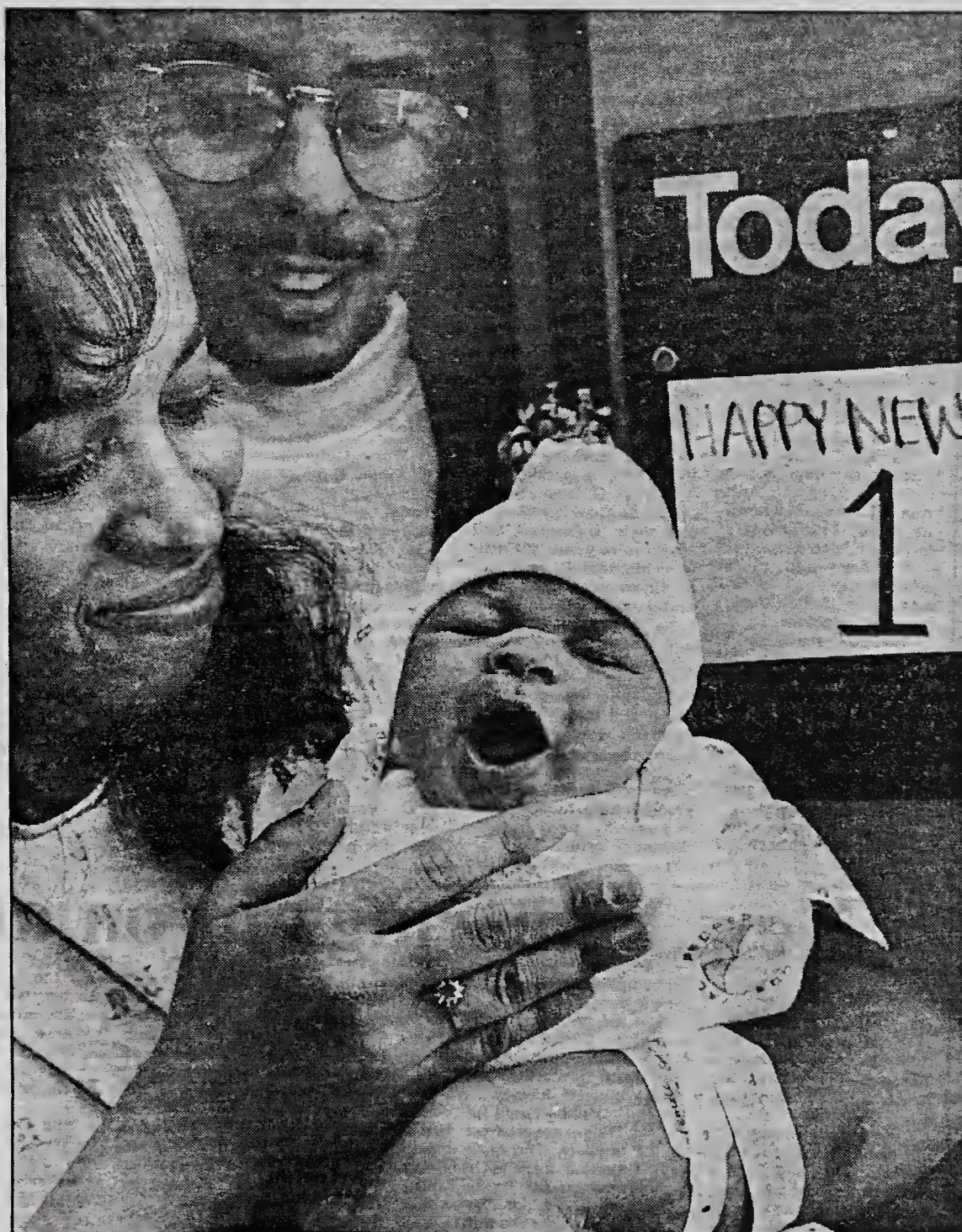


Sue Ann Ritchko answers questions on live human resources program which centered on nutrition.

A New Arrival for the Northeast Region!

The following news clip appeared in the Boston Herald on January 2, 1991. Reggie Sylvain works in the New York Operations/Regional Policy section of NERO's Food Stamp Program. His baby has been awarded a scholarship to Emmanuel College in Boston for being the first baby girl born in Boston...

THE BOSTON HERALD, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1991 5



HAPPY NEW YEAR: Proud parents Gayla and Reggie Sylvain show off their New Year's baby Aisha, born at 12:03 yesterday morning in Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Staff photo by Arthur Pollock

Parents usher in New Year with cry of delight

By PAUL SULLIVAN

Two little girls, entering the world as the New Year's countdown ended early yesterday morning, battled for the title of Boston's First Baby of 1991.

In the end, the Hub's official first-born baby was Toni-Lee Maloney, who arrived at 12:02 a.m. at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces.

Both Toni-Lee and her mom, Denise Maloney, were too bashful to talk to the press yesterday.

Lovely Toni-Lee just edged out beautiful Aisha Jamila Sylvain, who was born at 12:03 a.m. at Beth Israel Hospital after 25 hours of labor — and 11 days late.

Her father, Reggie Sylvain, 25, of Roxbury, who assisted in the 8-pound, 12-ounce baby's birth, announced her arrival to Aisha's mom, Gayla, 25, saying, "Happy New Year — she's here."

Reggie later told reporters, "I was hoping Aisha would beat midnight so we could have a tax break."

The Sylvains, who had ultrasound tests done, knew they were going to have a daughter and picked out the African-Arab name for her beforehand. Reggie said, "Aisha means life and Jamila means beautiful."

A slightly tired mom said, "Actually, I thought Aisha would come a long time ago. In fact I was

hoping she'd come on my birthday, Dec. 29, but she wanted to be a New Year's Baby.

"I'm just excited about having a kid," she added.

Aisha, who is the couple's first child, is 21 inches long, has brown eyes and lots of brown hair on her head.

Mom, who's a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., is in her third year at Harvard Medical School, just down the street from Beth Israel. She's studying for both her M.D. and a master's degree in public health.

Dad, a native of New Orleans, is a food program specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

And there seems to be some disagreement with what they'd like Aisha to be when she grows up.

"Maybe a physician," said Gayla, hoping Aisha follows in her mom's footsteps. But Reggie quickly added, "I'd like to see her in the field of animal sciences."

Meanwhile, in London, a test-tube baby was Britain's firstborn of 1991, arriving four seconds after midnight on New Year's Day, officials at Birmingham Maternity Hospital said.

Mathew Wright was the first of eight children born in the United Kingdom in the first minute of the new year, according to the Farley's baby food company, which awards a prize each year to the first.

AROUND THE COUNTRY (cont.)

MPRO and Tribal Staff Plan Nutrition Project Training

Story and Photo by Joanne Widner

Staff from MPRO and directors of food distribution programs on Kickapoo, Potawatami, and United Tribes of Kansas reservations met in Denver December 12-13 to plan training for a pilot nutrition education project on Kansas reservations. MPRO's Regional Nutrition Director **Stella Nash** and **Nancy Gaston** of HQs-NTSD, helped to coordinate gathering of materials and summarized results of the meeting. After welcoming remarks from MPRO Administrator **David Alspach**, Deputy Regional Administrator **Forrest Moore**, and Regional FDP Director **John Merz**, the group viewed a slide-tape presentation and made suggestions on modifying it for use in Kansas. They also reviewed components to be included in a training and resources manual with lesson plans for tribal use, and learned how to access the Human Nutrition Information Service's resource library.

Aims addressed by the group included targeting nutrition education to the needs of tribal residents and ways to meet food deficiencies to include, for example, ways to add nonfat dry milk to diets to make up for the lack of fluid milk consumption by Native Americans.

Initial tribal staff training has been scheduled for March 19-21 in Reserve, Kansas, for a group of approximately 30. Included will be tribal FDP directors and staff assistance, Head Start and school staff, senior citizen center and halfway house staff, a WIC dietitian, community health representatives, and Tribal Council representatives, all of whom are in a position to extend nutritional advice to tribal residents. Once the pilot project has successfully run its course, MPRO staff hopes to repeat the sessions throughout the Region for other Native American groups.



MPRO staff meet with FDP directors from Kickapoo, Potawatami and United Tribes of Kansas to plan training for Kansas nutrition education pilot project on reservations. Shown: MPRO Administrator David Alspach, FDP Director John Merz, Deputy Regional Administrator Forrest Moore, Nancy Gaston of NTSD staff, and Sharon Bates of MPRO's FDP staff.

On a recent visit to the State University of New York at Albany, Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini (r) and NERO Administrator Harold McLean (l) took the opportunity to stop by the Albany Field Office and present a Certificate of Merit to Albany OIC Kathleen O'Brien. Ms. O'Brien received the award for her development of new computer applications for field office management of the Child Care and Summer Feeding Programs.



AROUND THE COUNTRY (cont.)

MPRO Networks States with CC:Mail

Mountain Plains Food Distribution Programs staff is developing a time-saving communications link that also cuts clerical work and the eternal paperwork pileup. They are developing a cc:Mail network that will eventually include all 10 MPRO states. At present, communications are operational with six state agencies and several Indian tribal organizations.

On-line agencies include Colorado's Department of Social Services, Iowa's Department of Education and Department of Human Services, Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Nebraska's Department of Social Services, and Utah's Department of Education. The most enthusiastic user is Missouri, which has rapid communication capability through cc:Mail. Some other states have a less convenient

setup and must go to a specific terminal to transmit.

Missouri can create a prototype food requisition, using spreadsheet software such as SuperCalc, and attach it as a DOS file to a cc:Mail message. The Regional Office prints it and processes it rapidly. MPRO can send Missouri a notice of allocation or other information that might normally require the formality of a letter or a phone call. Then Missouri can transmit its requisition quickly, in less turnaround time than a phone call. The procedure has the added benefit of providing hard copy to prevent misunderstanding or miscommunications sometimes involved in phone conversations.

Colorado is also starting to send its food requisitions via cc:Mail, and the other on-line agencies are learning the advantages of its rapid

transmittal of and acknowledgement of information. Quarterly estimates for ITOs can be sent to field offices and MPRO can consolidate the information returned into its own program spreadsheets. MPRO also anticipates being able to transmit monthly distribution of commodities reports.

This places greater responsibility on both sender and receiver to inform the normal chain of command and communication. However, **Don DeBoer** of MPRO's FDP staff is enthusiastic about the more efficient use of time this network provides. He looks forward to having all 10 states on-line, so that "list" messages or needs surveys can be sent to all agencies at one time and MPRO can be more responsive to the needs of its recipients.

Operation Des(s)ert Shield Update...

Another Way to Communicate Overseas

GENie is offering a free service to send mail to GIs assigned to Desert Shield. If you are not a GENie subscriber, you can still use this service. Set your terminal to half duplex, 7E1, then call GENie (You will have to get the local access number yourself), press hhh, hit return, then at the #U= prompt, type "Letters". For more information, call (800) 638-9636. This is a voice line, not a data line.

GE Information Services is pleased to provide "Letters from Home" -- a program to allow families and friends of loved ones serving with the U.S. Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf region to send FREE electronic mail messages via the GENie Online Information Service.

Letters from Home, offered in cooperation with the U.S. Armed Forces, the Saudi American General Electric Company, GE Rents and Pitney Bowes Inc., allows individuals in the U.S. with access to a personal computer and modem to send personal messages to the Persian Gulf region.

Letters will be sent electronically via GE Information Services' worldwide teleprocessing network to GE's local telecommunications facility in Saudi Arabia. The letters will be received and printed on computers and printers supplied by GE Rents. The mail will then be folded, inserted and sealed in envelopes and given to the U.S. Armed Forces for delivery to the designated serviceperson.

The GENie service is available throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan, Germany, Austria and Switzerland via a local phone call. For further information about the GENie service, please call GENie Client Services at 1-800-638-9636.

Before sending a Letter from Home you must know the following information about the intended recipient: Name & Rank, Social Security Number, Unit or Ship Name, APO or FPO Number. If you are unable to supply any of the above information, the system will not allow you to enter a letter. The system will first request some information from you about yourself

(your mailing address, phone number, etc.). This information will be used for statistical purposes--for security reasons it will NOT be printed on the letter or otherwise disclosed.

Next the system will prompt you for the addressee's information noted above. You will be given the opportunity to review and confirm the correctness of the information before entering your letter.

Each letter may contain up to 40 lines of text with a maximum of 80 characters on each line. Letters may be entered interactively (on-line) or they may be created offline in a word processor and then uploaded into the Letters from Home system.

Disclaimer: Recognizing that this service is provided to you at no charge, you agree that neither GE or its co-sponsors warrant this service or the transmission or delivery of messages, and neither GE or its co-sponsors shall be liable for any direct or indirect loss or damage resulting from their performance or nonperformance.

(cont. on page 9)

FROM THE PROGRAM...

Food Stamp

USDA Wins HUD Utility Allowance Courtsuit

On December 21, 1990, the U.S. District Court in Arkansas ruled for USDA in the Larry case concerning HUD utility allowances. The plaintiffs charged that HUD payments should be excluded from consideration as income as energy assistance under the Food Stamp Act. In ruling for USDA the Court found that "the analysis of the legislative background of Section 2014 (d)(11)(A) leads to but one conclusion: the definition of "energy assistance" does not encompass Section 8 and public housing utility reimbursements". We do not know whether an appeal will be filed. USDA has lost on this issue in separate cases in Pennsylvania (West) and Ohio (Baum), so this win supporting our current policy is very important. If USDA was forced to revise its policy of counting HUD payments as income, the nationwide cost would be approximately \$75 to 150 million per year.

More News...

--Truk and Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, have requested disaster food assistance for over 5,000 households (40,000 persons) over the next 12 months as a result of Typhoon Owen. The estimated cost of the assistance is \$9 million. The disaster situation in terms of crop damage will be reassessed in 3 months to determine remaining needs. Surplus USDA foods have also been shipped.

--In another recent disaster, The Island of Guam was granted one week of Food Stamp assistance as a result of Typhoon Russ. Assistance ran from December 28 to January 4. The 15-day allotment of stamps provided food assistance for 2,000 households.

Special Nutrition

NTSD Nutritionist Participates in American Dietetic Association/USA Today Hot Line

On Monday, January 2, **Donna Blum**, Nutritionist with the Nutrition and Technical Services Division, participated in a Diet and Nutrition Hot Line sponsored by the American Dietetic Association and USA Today. Registered dietitians, who are members of the American Dietetic Association, staffed the toll-free Hot Line and received about 700 calls from people throughout the U.S. Although many people called in for advice on how to successfully lose pounds gained over the holidays, calls also came in on planning a low-fat and low cholesterol diet, and strategies to incorporate exercise and nutritious eating into a busy lifestyle. The Hot Line provided a valuable opportunity for the public to get expert nutrition advice, and allowed **Donna** a chance to gauge the nutrition concerns of people all over the country.



A Home for the Holidays

by George C. Rogers, CND

Thoughts of Christmas celebrations bring to mind remembrances of family and home. During this past Christmas, the Child Nutrition Division was fortunate to be able to assist one family in their transition from living in a shelter to living in their own home.

A mother and her five children had been living at the Stepping Stone Shelter in Rockville, Maryland for a few months. By the end of December it would be time for them to move into their own home and take on the attendant responsibilities, but it was also Christmas. It looked like they would be able to celebrate the independence of having their own home, but Christmas gifts were going to be in short supply.

When this situation was brought to the attention of some Child Nutrition Division employees, the word was put out about this family's plight and donations were requested. Numerous gifts and a total of \$465 was collected from within the Division. Some of the money was used to buy additional gifts for the family including gifts from the children's "Santa's wish list." This meant that for one little boy, "Santa" brought him his first bike. The remaining funds were given to the mother to help her meet the expenses that arise from starting out in her own home.

For the fortunate, Christmas is a time for family and home. The Child Nutrition Division was fortunate that it could contribute to this family's Christmas celebration.

FROM THE HEALTH UNIT...

We have many things planned for 1991 to make this a very healthy and happy year for you! Nurse **Perkey** has been circulating a check list of possible WELLNESS PROGRAMS you might be interested in and she is still hoping to hear from more of you. If you have not seen a list, come by the Health Unit and fill one out!

Here's what's on the agenda so far:

--Coming soon...CPR Training. We still need eight more people to register, so get your 182's in. Call 756-6000 for more info.

--Registration for the next Weight Watchers Program will be on January 16, 11:00, 6th Floor Conference Room.

--On January 31, we will be running a series of blood tests that will include cholesterol check up, blood pressure, and body fat analysis. This will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room from 8:00-12:00.

--Look for future programs that will cover Stress Management, Health Risk Analysis, PMS, Fitness and Exercise, AND MORE!



Get Into Shape for 1991!

It's not too late to join Body Shop, a low impact, co-ed, aerobics class, sponsored by the Alexandria Hospital Wellness Center. The 30-minute, no sweat, class takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00-12:30 or 12:30-1:00 in FNS HQs **NEW EXERCISE ROOM** on the 10th floor. Great music, great instructor, great stress reliever. Only \$35.00 for 10 weeks (20 sessions). What a great (cheap) way to get in shape! Call **Ro Tugg**, 756-3060 for more information.

(continued from page 7) Other FNS Activities...

--A Des(s)ert Shield Cookbook, which includes recipes of the cookies baked and sent overseas by FNS employees, has been put together and is being reviewed by the committee.

--The first of several Letter Writing Brown Bag Lunches has been scheduled to answer some of the many wonderful letters received from Saudi Arabia.

DESERT SHIELD BRACELET

How can you make a difference? You can show your support of our troops in Operation Desert Shield and those who are being held captive, by wearing a bracelet similar to those worn for our POW/MIA's of Vietnam and those held hostage in Iran. Since there are over 200,000 people involved, there is one inscription "Operation Desert Shield - A Call To Freedom" - which is symbolic for all who serve and the hostages.

Voices for Freedom, a non-profit, patriotic organization has organized this effort to show that there is grassroots support for those who have left home and are willing to respond when there is a call to freedom, and that we pray for their safe keeping. Voices for Freedom donates monies which support programs that benefit our military men and women, families and the families of those held hostage.

Let our people know we appreciate and honor their service to our country by ordering your bracelet today.

Mail orders: Voices for Freedom, Box 7703, Washington, D.C. 20013 (703) 790-5626
Telephone orders: 1-800-284-4USA



ON THE HILL...

by Bob Beard

With the start of the new year, the 102nd Congress was sworn in and the business of new legislation has started again. In the House, over 300 bills have already been introduced, on subjects both very parochial and global in significance.

Although some of the internal organizing of committees in the House and Senate was done in party caucus meetings in December, many official decisions have not yet been made about final committee assignments. As soon as final decisions are made, OGA will disseminate the information.

Among the bills introduced so far, some are of interest to FNS. Rep. **Tony Hall** (D-OH) introduced a measure to reestablish the House Select Committee on Hunger. Rep. **George Miller** (D-CA) has introduced a resolution to extend the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. And, Del. **Ron de Lugo** (D-VI) has introduced H.R. 316 to enable the people of Puerto Rico to exercise self-determination. Finally, Del. **Ben Blaz** (R-Guam) has introduced H.R. 98 to establish the Commonwealth of Guam.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
Regional Administrator	(A)	ES-120		01/28/91	91-09	SWRO
Supvry. Computer Spec.	(A)	GM-0334	15	01/14/91	91-10*	IRMD
Financial Manager	(G)	GM-0505	14	01/31/91	91-21*	WRO
Visual Info. Specialist	(A-LCA)	GS-1084	9	01/18/91	91-H-04	HNIS
Secretary Typing	(A-LCA)	GS-0318	3/4/5	01/28/91	91-15**	PAD
Supy. Food Prgm. Spec.	(A)	GM-0120	13	01/14/91	91-30	FDD
Food Program Officer	(G)	GM-0120	14	01/31/91	91-31	WRO
Statistician (General)	(A-LCA)	GS-1530	11/12	02/11/91	91-32	PAD
Program Analyst	(A)	GS-0345	11/12/13	02/04/91	91-33	OAE
Food Program Officer	(G)	GM-0120	15	02/19/91	91-34	MARO
Food Program Specialist	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0120	11/12	02/04/91	91-35	CND
Food Program Specialist	(A-LCA)	GS-0120	11/12	02/04/91	91-35 A	CND
Secretary Typing	(A-LCA)	GS-0318	5/6	02/04/91	91-36	PED
Secretary Typing	(A-LCA)	GS-0318	7	02/04/91	91-37	PED
Home Economist	(A)	GS-0493/	12/13	02/08/91	91-H-08	HNIS
or Nutritionist		GS-0630				
Home Economist	USDA-Wide	GS-0493	9/11/12	01/21/91	91-H-09	HNIS
Nutritionist	HNIS-Wide	GS-0630	13	02/05/91	91-H-10	HNIS
Management Analyst	(A)	GS-343	9/11	02/12/91	91-26**	IRMD
Math. Statistician	(A)	GS-1529	13	02/04/91	91-28	PAD

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

- (A) - All Sources
- (A-LCA) - All Sources, Local Commuting Area
- (FNS-HQ) - FNS Headquarters Wide
- (G) - Governmentwide
- (HNIS-Wide) - Human Nutrition Info. Service Wide
- (USDA-Wide) - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Wide

OFFICE LOCATION

- CND - Child Nutrition Division
- HNIS - Human Nutrition Info. Service
- PAD - Program Accountability Division
- WRO - Western Regional Office
- PDD - Program Development Division
- IRMD - Information Resource Management Div.
- FDD - Food Distribution Division
- OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
- MARO - Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
- PED - Personnel Division
- SWRO - Southwest Regional Office

RE M I N D E R . . .

Don't forget to get your nominations in for Catherine Bertini's request to retitle "Food and Consumer Services." These are due to her office by January 25. Call Tommy Mitchell for more info on 447-7711.

- * Extends closing date.
- ** Reannounced & extended area of consideration.

Upcoming Events...

January

- 15 Work Force Diversity Teleconference, All Employees, 11:00 EST, Jefferson Auditorium
- 16 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Commemoration
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday
- 22 Toastmasters Meeting, 12-1, 4th Conf. Rm.
- 23 Conference & Meeting Planning Training all day, 4th Floor Conference Room
- 23-25 WRO Child Nutrition Directors' Meeting San Francisco, CA
- 31 Blood Test for Cholesterol, 8-12, 4th Flr. Conf.

Darlene L. Barnes, Editor
and Desktop Design
Pamela D. Faith, HQs Photography

The Friday Letter is published every two weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update your mailing address or to alter the number of copies you receive, please mail your changes to FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 819, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Telephone: 703/756-3286